forms used in Government offices, such as money-order forms, Anchal receipts, chalans etc., should be printed in Malayalam. The directions on sign-boards kept in public roads should be in Malayalam. Proceedings of Government, notifications etc., published in the Gazette should be in Malayalam. Malayalam should be adopted for the proceedings of the Legislative Council, as also for the replies of the President in the Srimulam Popular Assembly. In order to pave the way for the growth of Malayalam literature, Government should appoint a committee of scholars to publish a Malayalam dictionary. More publicity should be given to publications of Malayalam manuscripts. A committee of experts should be appointed for the publication in Malayalam of standard religious and scientific books in English and Sanskrit. Malayalam type-writers should be used in all Government offices. The Malayalam short-hand primers published by Government should be taught in all schools. Government should encourage the study of Malayalam short-hand by providing qualified candidates with appointments in the Government service.

DEWAN'S REPLY:—Mr. Narayanan Bhattatiri, this question came up on a previous occasion and I think, if I remember rightly, I then said the representative who himself was strongly advocating going back to Malayalam in his speech used about 50 per cent English words which have now passed into Malayalam. For example, if we print the Budget Estimates in Malayalam, still its designation will be the 'Budget Estimate.' I could not very well ask professors to teach Physics, Chemistry, Zoology in Malayalam nor can the Electrical Engineer work out his formula and his plans for the electrification of the town in Malayalam terms. English has its uses. If you want an institution as an example that Malayalam is very much alive, it is this Assembly itself.

If you go some day to an Anchal office, you will find that all the money order and S. B. forms are printed both in Malayalam and English. I shall give instructions to the Chief Engineer to have names on sign boards both in Malayalam and English.

As regards further encouragement, there are many fine scholars and there will always be Malayalam scholars in Travancore, and as people begin to realise the beauties of the language more and more, there will be still more Malayalam scholars, poets, writers and speakers of the Malayalam language. I am under correspondence on the question of a Malayalam type-writer.

**136. Economic development of the State.**

MR C. G. VARGHESE (*Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla.*) said that of all the problems confronting the State at the present time, the most pressing was the problem of unemployment. The cause of this was over-population. Travancoreans were an agricultural people and there was not enough land for them to cultivate. The density of population in the State was 525 per square mile. But Government were not doing anything to relieve this over-crowding. Not only that, the only available lands to which the population could expand were being given away to foreigners. No Travancorean had any grudge against the foreigner as such, but what the people of Travancore wanted was only that their lands should be reserved for their own use.

There were people who thought that exclusion of foreigners from Travancore lands would lead to retaliation elsewhere. But there was no substance in that argument. The only people who would be affected by the exclusion were Europeans. They were not all of them anxious to secure lands in Travancore. They had Canada, they had Australia. Travancore had no special attraction to them. Besides, Travancore had already given away about 2 lakhs of acres of land for tea cultivation alone to Europeans. That itself was very good liberality.

Another objection that was raised was that most of the lands in the highlands which were registered in the names of European companies were unsuitable for the cultivation of paddy or other crops, and that therefore Travancoreans did not want them. There was a two-fold mistake in this contention. In the first place the lands were quite fit for cultivating paddy, ragi, tapioca or any other produce. Secondly, so far from being unwanted by Travancoreans, these lands were eagerly sought for by them.

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A third objection was that by the exclusion of foreigners the country would lose all the advantages which would accrue from the investment of foreign capital. But those who upheld this contention forgot that investment of foreign capital also meant exploitation of the country by foreigners. Taking the tea industry in Travancore, as an example, the value of tea exported from the State in 1097 was Rs. 127 lakhs, and in 1101 Rs. 268 lakhs. What little benefit the State derived from the industry was however confined to the export duty on tea. There were also other aspects of the question. Almost all the persons employed in the tea factories were foreigners including the major portion of the coolies. The Kanan Devan Hills Produce Company was an instance in point. All the high officers of the company were Europeans. Even for the transport of goods they had their own foreign agencies. That was the way in which foreign capitalists were improving our land.

DEWANS' REPLY: Mr. Varghese, I have listened for sixteen minutes to flights of rhetoric and phrases full of literary flavour and theories of economics strange to my ears. However we pass over all that. I need merely remind you that this subject has come up once before, and I see no reason to change or abate what I have previously said upon the subject. I just mention two little facts to you now; one is that, in the last two or three years, the one person to whom the largest block of land went was an Indian, a Syrian Christian gentleman. And another fact, which, of course you are perfectly aware of, is that the enormous profits that you refer to at once convey the idea of enormous outlay. You refer in specific terms to the Kanan Devan Hills Produce Company. Let me remind you that the present administration has nothing to do with this assignment; and, even if it so desired it has not the power to revoke formal agreements and contracts entered into forty or fifty years ago. You take great cridit out of your extraordinary generosity for having given lands to outsiders. I need only observe that if you describe it as generosity to allow people to take what you do not want, and did not want, if that is what you call generosity, I shall not question your use of the term.

### 137. Suggestions for the economic development of the country.

MR. K. C. EAPEN (*Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum*) first of all thanked the Government for issuing the Statement of Action considerably in advance of the opening of the Assembly this time. In this as well as in the particularity with which replies were given by the President to representations, the member saw clear proof of the earnestness with which Government were applying themselves to the business of the Assembly. As regards the representations themselves, the member observed that unlike in past years, the current year's subjects related, most of them, to matters like the industrial and economic advancement of the country. This change in the angle of vision of the members augured good for the future.

The member had himself chosen economic development as his subject. Under this head he referred first to the abolition of the stamp duty on cheques and drafts and expressed the gratitude of the merchants of Travancore for this benevolent measure of Government. But this year as in previous years he had to make one complaint and that was against the oppression of the income-tax officers. They were still making arbitrary assessments which caused great hardship to the merchants.

He referred next to the State-aided Bank which, in his opinion, was not doing all the good that it could to the other indigenous banks in the State. He hoped that Government would do their best to turn the attention of the Bank in this direction. He also exhorted the Government not to allow the Bank to fall into the hands of interested cliques and factions.

The member also suggested that the banking system of Travancore should be supplemented by the establishment of a few land mortgage banks.

The Economic Development Board, of which the member had a fairly long experience, required, he said, a new life. The work of the Board might be made more fruitful by the periodical holding of economic conferences as they were doing in Mysore.

Rural reconstruction was the next topic taken up by the member. Back to the village, back to agriculture and back to trade, these, he said, would alone remedy the present unemployment among the educated young men of the country. Communal representation and Government service were mere phantoms. Government

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